



AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Cross Section

All of you are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

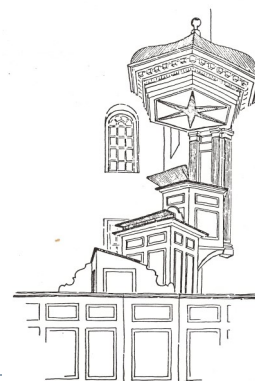
The LORD is
good
to those whose
hope
is in him,
to the one who
seeks him.



LAMENTATIONS 3:25, NIV

INSIDE . . .

- Consider Yourself Invited to Worship!
- Rejoice in "The Day of the Lord"
- Outreach Serves Others from Stafford to the Middle East
- A Ministry of Prayer and Fellowship: Sts. Mary & Martha
- ECW Celebrates Heritage Sunday with Take-Out Meal
- Get Ready: In-Person VBS this June
- Latest Update from Our Vestry





CROSS SECTION

Aquia Episcopal Church

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Stafford, VA 22555

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office@aquiachurch.org
www.aquiachurch.org

Office hours:

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Monday– Friday,
except Tuesdays (closed)

Rector

The Rev. Jay Morris

Assistant Rector

The Rev. James Rickenbaker

Treasurer

Chris Arey

Assistant Treasurer

Charlie Bingay

Music Director

Trystan Bennett

Dir. Christian Education

Kristen Morgan

Parish Administrator

Dennise LaBarre

Executive Assistant

Sue Selz

Nursery Supervisor

Dawna Spaulding

FROM THE RECTOR

This May, Consider Yourself Invited

You know all too well how much your life has changed during the coronavirus pandemic: changes in how often you leave your home, how you conduct your shopping and travel, how you can or cannot see folks in your family or your circle of friends, at work or school, and so forth. Similarly, Aquia Church as a community has faced plenty of challenges in this time, ranging from being prohibited from worshipping indoors to moving many of our ministries online and seeing dramatic increases in financial uncertainty and food insecurity among our neighbors in need. Thankfully, not all of these changes will be permanent.

Overall, Aquia Church has responded remarkably well to these difficult circumstances. We have expanded opportunities for worship with outdoor services and electronic/virtual services and with new folks serving as lectors and intercessors. We have offered formative ministry over the Internet with Morning Prayer, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, youth group, Bible studies, and book discussions when we could not meet in person. When Aquia's Pantry and Aquia's Table have seen new needs arise exponentially, more church members and their friends have energetically shown their support. Blessedly, not all of these changes have been bad.

As more and more people are receiving vaccinations and as the COVID infection rates finally begin to decline, we are increasingly likely to start worshipping inside again in the time ahead, and more of our ministry groups might gradually be able to resume their typical operations. We miss gathering inside our historic church building, we miss seeing each other week after week, and we miss the fellowship that sustains our congregation. Yet perhaps life is at last beginning to anticipate a return to normalcy—albeit a new normal—and we need to prepare for the upcoming develop-

ments. Naturally, some changes that were required during the pandemic need to be changed soon.

It has been hard for us to be the body of Christ at our best when we could not have our bodies present at church. Even so, nowadays our outdoor worship services

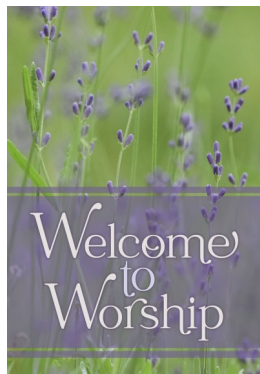
flow very smoothly, and probably soon enough we will be back indoors. When that happens, will people return to worshipping here, or will they remain at home in their pajamas, isolated from one another while drowning in spiritual laziness? Only time will tell. But May will bring with it the Feast of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday, two significant occasions on the Church calendar. With Pentecost we

think of the Holy Spirit being poured out into our hearts and drawing us ever closer together, and with Trinity Sunday we recall how much God's own life as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit matters for our own lives. We desperately need those annual reminders about who God is calling us to be, maybe now more than ever before.

From my perspective, the upcoming occasions of Pentecost and Trinity Sunday could not come at a better time for us: to wake us up from any coldness of heart that accompanied our being so distant from each other during the pandemic, to revive our spirits that have been understandably fearful and fretful for our health, to help us reconvene with worship in person (whether with the warmth of sunshine or with the joy of returning inside), and to reunite us under our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you have been missing friends at church because you have been missing church—or if you worry that God has been missing you because you have been missing church—then consider yourself invited to return. We can't wait to see you again!

Jay Morris



FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR

The Books of 2 Peter and Jude

Dear Family in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! I thank our God for you, especially for how you are focused on the return of Christ. We “set [our] face to go to Jerusalem” like our Lord Jesus (Luke 9:51) when we come together for the Holy Eucharist each week. This meal that we eat points us to the time when Christ returns, gathers us together in the resurrection, and ushers in the new creation: the eschaton or last thing. Since we are in the season of the resurrection of Jesus, we will be studying the two short books of 2 Peter and Jude (or Jude and 2 Peter, in reverse order, depending on how one dates them). The three major themes of the two books together (which, as a whole, cover much of the same material) are: the Day of the Lord/coming judgment, false teachers, and perseverance in faith.

The Day of the Lord is the overarching theme of both Jude and 2 Peter. Peter hammers home the reality of that day in 2 Peter 3:10: “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.” What follows is the new creation, the new heavens and new earth of Rev. 21—22. Likewise, Jude 5-7 points us to the reality of the judgment that comes with the eschaton. Lest we fear, though, Jude reminds us in Jude 24-25 of the One who preserves us in faith: “Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.” The Day of the Lord is ultimately something in which we can rejoice because we have been judged righteous, not by what we have done, but by the One who has saved us: our Lord Jesus Christ.

Until the Day of the Lord, though, we still have false teachers among us. Both

Jude and 2 Peter touch on this problem as well. Jude 10 calls them “people [who] blaspheme all that they do not understand, and they are destroyed by all that they, like unreasoning animals, understand instinctively.” Peter speaks out against their lies when he says in 2:1, “But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.” This problem remains with us today. We need to hear Jude and Peter’s combined witness anew.

The response to false teachers is perseverance. Jude and Peter encourage us to persevere in the true faith in the midst of false teaching. The Lord of truth reigns. Heresy loses. Jude counsels the church thusly: “But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” Persevere, my brothers and sisters in Christ, and wait on the Lord who is coming soon. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*In Christ+,
Fr. James*



FOR NO PROPHECY WAS EVER
PRODUCED BY THE WILL OF MAN,
BUT MEN SPOKE FROM GOD AS
THEY WERE CARRIED ALONG BY
THE HOLY SPIRIT.
2 PETER 1:21, ESV



AQUA CHURCH VESTRY

Chris Arey

Finance Committee

Charlie Bingay

Finance Committee

Dickie Boes

*Finance Committee Chairperson
Building & Grounds Committee*

Chris Bowie

Administration Committee

Bob Brandon

Building & Grounds Committee

Carrol Frederick

*Administration Committee
Chairperson*

Michael Golasz

Building & Grounds Committee

Bill Hoffman

Senior Warden

Ron Korth

*Junior Warden
Building & Grounds
Committee Chairperson*

Patricia Springer

Administration Committee

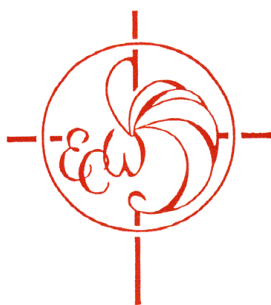
Christopher “Kit” Stoltz

*Youth Representative
Administration &
Finance Committees*

Chris Wanner

Buildings & Grounds Committee

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN



My newsletter article for May 2020 was written about how our yearly calendars were prepared in December 2019 and about the number of cancellations for 2020 due to the unknown factors from COVID. In January 2021, I wrote a few annual events on my calendar, with some concern as to what we—the ECW, our parish, and our nation—would continue to face. My faith continued quietly to anchor and inspire me concerning tentative plans that could change at a moment's notice.

With faith, patience, and tenacity, we are enjoying more flexibility in our worship and our ministry's service, and we are trying to hold fast with our annual calendar. May is traditionally a time to share Heritage Sunday here at Aquia with the Peyton family. Unfortunately, the Peyton family will not be attending this year to share in our annual dinner reception. We will change our annual Heritage Day luncheon from a sit-down meal to a take-out meal. Several traditional dishes are planned, including fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, and Pat Moncure's lemon tarts. We



shall have a sign-up sheet on Sunday mornings each week for families in our parish to let us know how many meals they need to pick up. On May 16, immediately following our morning worship, come by the great hall and pick up your family's COVID-compliant take-out meal. Please keep watching our Sunday announcements for more information.

Each May the traditional Aquia ECW's Anne E. Moncure Scholarship award is opened to all graduating seniors. The application process for graduating seniors usually begins on May 1, with May 31 being the final day for submitting applications to the church office. We hope all graduating seniors will apply. This ECW scholarship supports all forms of continuing education. Further information will be shared in weekly announcements.



Back to the annual calendar: we have had so many inquiries about Fall Fest 2021. The date is Saturday, Oct. 2. As we begin to have more flexibility during our recovery from COVID, tentative plans have begun for all things Fall Fest. This year's celebration of Fall Fest might look a little different from versions in past years, but plenty of our favorites will be back, such as the Flea Market, Treasures, ECW Crafts and Jewelry, Pulled Pork, Man Cave, and a variation of our Live Auction. More plans are coming soon!

It is not about joining the ECW; it is about sharing in our ministries: parish, local, and worldwide. Simply contact me for more information: bkwing_n_things@yahoo.com or ask the church office for my phone number.

Briget Kane
ECW President

Episcopal Church Women

O God, as our world begins to reopen,
help the women of Aquia to continue to pray fervently,
labor diligently, and give liberally to make known
the power of your love given through your son, Jesus.
May our work in mission and ministry be
guided and blessed by you. Amen.



STS. MARY AND MARTHA

Worship, Service and Fellowship

In April 2020, our newsletter article included the line: “God willing, guild meetings this month will be on” Obviously, in-person guild meetings were not God’s will at that time because we could not gather safely. However, that has not stopped the ladies of Sts. Mary and Martha Guild from doing what we see as God’s work for us. For the past 13 months we have kept close together through e-mail messages, texts, cards, handwritten notes, and prayer.

We do look forward to meeting again in the parish hall when it truly is God’s will. In the meantime, we continue with our comfortable and comforting routine of praying together simultaneously on Thursday mornings. If you or a loved one or a friend is need of prayer, please let us know, so that we can add the names to our list.

As mentioned in past months, some of our ladies have filled the extra quiet hours that God has given us by working on crafts for the next Fall Fest. Pictured to the right are our star candles, which have been lovingly recycling from candle stubs from Aquia Church’s altar. Actually, you can request these at any time; you do not have to wait for the next Fall Fest. Simply send us an e-mail.

Mary Jane Cole

maryjane@cfsw.biz

Carolyn Hendrickson

cvhendrickson35@gmail.com



Brighten up your life! These star-shaped candles will be available at Fall Fest in October.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

The Outreach Ministry cannot meet in person yet, but we are able to conduct our business via e-mail.

We recently assisted a young lady who was aging out of foster care at age 18. Her social worker helped her obtain an apartment, but the young lady did not own anything to furnish that new residence. Thankfully, she does have a job, lives near a bus route, and will be able to support herself as she starts her new life adventure. The social worker reached out to local churches and was able to obtain some furniture through them. Our ministry purchased some household items including plates, silverware, saucepans, a frying pan, toaster, and towels for this young lady. She was overwhelmed by the generosity of this community and could not believe the fact that people would help her in this way.

We sent donations to missionaries Rebecca Hedger and Ed and Whitney (Burke) North to support their work.

These dedicated messengers continue to spread the good news of Christ’s love even in the midst of a pandemic.

We also made a donation to the Good Friday collection for the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

We still anticipate doing our shoe collection, school supply collection, and Cash for Cows and Change for Chickens collection at some point during this year. Dates have yet to be determined, but we are more than ready to get started. If you are not aware, the Outreach Ministry’s Mission Statement is:

“With prayerful requests for God’s guidance, the members of the Outreach Ministry hope to do His work so that others may know Our Lord Jesus Christ and His love through our work.”

We always welcome new members to join our mission.

Johanna Jones



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

March 16, 2021

In attendance: Rector, the Rev. Jay Morris; Assistant Rector, the Rev. James Rickenbaker; Treasurer, Chris Arey; Sr. Warden, Bill Hoffman; Jr. Warden, Ron Korth; Charlie Bingay, Dickie Boes, Chris Bowie, Bob Brandon, Carrol Frederick, Patricia Springer, Kit Stoltz, Chris Wanner.

Business Session

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer:
The Rev. Jay Morris.

Treasurer's Report:

- 17 months of mortgage payments in bank.
- \$20,000.00 from Cemetery Fund redeemed primarily to pay for new tractor, also for routine cemetery expenses.
- Some operating expenses higher due to billing cycle.
- Trustees of the Funds transferred \$40,000.00 for the tractor purchase, rather than the requested \$20,000.00. The process of rectifying the mistake made by a company working for TOTF was initiated by the Treasurer.

Old Business

- **R-2021-04** Heat Pump for Parish House Lower Level approved
- **R-2021-05** Additional Principal Payment for CFFB approved
- **R-2021-06** Adjustment to 2020 Balance Sheet approved

- **R-2021-07** Receipt of Funds Remaining from Stoltz Eagle Scout Project approved

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

Accepted and approved unanimously by the vestry.

Continued Business

- Regarding the Parochial Report: upon approval, it will be filed with the Diocese of Virginia. Some areas of the report reflected the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to impact most areas of church life, including financial concerns.
- Regarding the matching grant challenge for 2021: the deadline for the goal of \$100,000.00 was set for 9/30/2021.

New Business:

- **R-2021-08:** Stipend for seminarian from Virginia Theological Seminary, Mr. Stephen Pecot: as part of required field education, Mr. Pecot will be joining Aquia Episcopal Church in fulfilling various requirements of his study. This resolution will allow for a stipend based upon suggested rates from the seminary. The finance committee will provide a line item for funding the stipend. The resolution was approved unanimously.
- **R-2021-09:** Section 125 Cafeteria Plan was approved unanimously.
- **Worship During Holy Week:**
 - ◇ Palm Sunday to remain the same as current Sunday worship
 - ◇ 7 p.m. virtual services during weekdays of Holy Week
 - ◇ Easter Sunday 7:30 a.m. outside worship; 10:30 a.m. outside worship, followed by Children's Egg Hunt; no afternoon service unless needed because of rain that morning



Vestry Highlights

- *[R-2021-10: Cemetery Mowing Contract: On 19 April 2021, Father Morris announced that the vestry had approved this resolution unanimously by electronic vote.]*

Reports from Junior and Senior Wardens:

- Senior Warden reports that the inventory for Clifton Chapel was completed.
- Junior Warden: report filed electronically.

Report from Rector: report filed electronically.

- Land sale to Stafford County for safety center still pending; land sale still needs approval of congregation at a congregational meeting where a proper vote can be recorded, and of course that meeting will happen when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Upcoming Dates and Information:

3/28 Palm Sunday
4/4 Easter Sunday
4/20 Vestry Meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)
5/18 Vestry Meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)
6/16 Vestry Meeting (7 p.m. via Zoom)

Good of the Order, Closing Prayer, and Adjournment:

The Rev. James Rickenbaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol F. Korth

Register, Aquia Episcopal Church

(Note: *Items in italicized type occurred after the meeting.*)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We are currently planning an in-person Vacation Bible School for children age 3 through fifth grade! “Rocky Railway” VBS will take place June 21-25 on the Aquia Church campus. Please check the church website for registration information. Please contact Kristen Morgan (christianed@aquiachurch.org) for more information or if you would like to volunteer with this year’s VBS program. We are collecting pre-packaged snacks for VBS week. VBS is asking for donations of juice boxes (100% juice please) and pre-packaged snacks

(pretzels, crackers, popcorn, chips, animal crackers, etc.) Please no nuts or nut butters. Contact Kristen Morgan for more information about snack donations.

We continue to offer Sunday school for preschool-twelfth grade. Sunday school will not meet on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend (May 30). We will meet the following Sunday, June 6. Our last Zoom Sunday school will meet on June 13. We hope to resume in-person Sunday school when the new school year begins.

Kristen Morgan



AQUIA CHURCH IS BLOOMING!



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AT AQUIA CHURCH

New Babies: Thanksgiving for the birth of a child will be offered as the occasion arises. This will be scheduled as needed. Please call the church office the week prior if your family would like to be included. Also, please call the church office after a birth in your family, so that a red rose can be placed on the altar in thanksgiving.

Those being deployed: Please call the church office so that we can offer special prayers at a service prior to your departure. Also, we would like to put you on our prayer list for all those who are deployed in the service of our country.

FUTURE BAPTISMS

The next scheduled date for a baptism is May 23, 2021. If you would like to have a baptism on this date, or if this date doesn't work for you and you would like to request another date, then please contact the church office, so that counseling with the clergy can be scheduled.

How to reach us:

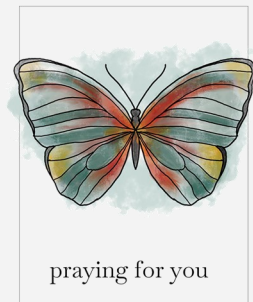


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<https://www.facebook.com/AquiaEpiscopalChurch>

Aquia Church Prayer List May 2021

Rhett Blythe and Family, Julie Burgess, Debbie Byers, Donnie Davis, Paula Davis, Brian Driscoll, Kristin Driscoll, Robert & JoAnn Feldman, Christopher, Shawna & Oliver Gray, Chris Hundley, John Jackson, Lori, Ken Luehrs, Janet McKelvey, Pat Moncure, Rebecca Poole, Terry Pickett, Linda Raisovich-Parsons, Arnie Schwartz, Scott Smith, O.D. Taylor, John & Pam Tompkins, Gayle Tompkins, Kenneth Tompkins, Tom Tremper, Patrick Weber, Jaxson Wiser, Walt & Elizabeth Yager.



New Matching Challenge for the New Building

The Vestry recently authorized the start of a new matching challenge campaign to reduce the debt on our construction loan for the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building as follows:

All contributions toward the new building received March 17 - Sept. 30, 2020, will be applied directly against the principal on the construction loan, and all those contributions will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000.00, thanks to a grant being made anonymously. So any contribution you make by the end of September will help us pay down our debt and will be matched up to one hundred grand!

Please mark “CFFB” on the memo line of your check or on the envelope of your contribution.

Over the past few years, the Christian Formation and Fellowship Building has made a wonderful difference for Aquia Church as a place for all sorts of regular meetings, special events, and outreach—from Sunday school, youth group, and Bible study meetings to choir rehearsals, Fall Fest, parish meals, receptions for weddings and burials and

other occasions, and the important work of Aquia’s Table and Aquia’s Pantry—not to mention our ability to host community groups who have met here or who have rented our space in ways that provided additional income to our church and extra visibility for us.

While we are making significant progress toward reducing the debt on our construction loan, we still have some work left to do, and this opportunity will help to ensure our success in that effort. During this matching challenge campaign, every contribution made will be matched up to the limit, and we can pay off the building sooner than expected. This is easy and exciting math: \$100,000 in contributions plus \$100,000 in matching funds equals \$200,000. What a blessing that will be!

Jay Morris



**NEW BUILDING
MATCHING CHALLENGE**



We, as Aquia Church, joyfully respond to

the grace, love and fellowship

of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit

at work in our midst

by celebrating His presence, sharing His abundance,

and proclaiming His word throughout the world.





AQUIA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Aquia Episcopal Church
Post Office Box 275
Stafford, VA
22555

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Expressions of Gratitude from Parishioners

I'm thankful that our beautiful historic church building is still standing, even after all the turmoil and adversities it faced over the centuries. I prefer not to think of where I would be in life if Aquia Church did not exist.

I'm thankful that I'm able to serve the Lord in service to others through the feeding ministries here at Aquia, and to work alongside so many faithful people.

What **ARE** You
Thankful
for?

I'm thankful for the learned clergy we have here at Aquia Church, through which my Christian faith has been forever strengthened.



May 2021 **READING ROOM** by Jay Morris

Somewhere around 1990, an increasingly prominent theological ethicist named Stanley Hauerwas, who had made his name at the University of Notre Dame but subsequently moved to Duke Divinity School, came to speak at my college. A bricklayer's son from Texas, he presented himself as a somewhat-foul-mouthed Methodist—which is a bit of irony that probably caught more attention amongst the largely undergraduate audience than did the content of his lecture (certainly that was true for me). Around a year later, I read a then-recent book that Hauerwas co-authored with Will Willimon, who at the time was dean of the chapel at Duke University. The book was *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony* (1st ed., Abingdon Press, 1989), and it had a profound impact on me. This text is now available in an expanded 25th anniversary edition (Abingdon Press, 2014) with a new foreword by Willimon and a new afterword by Hauerwas. While I do not often re-read entire books after finishing them, *Resident Aliens* is a notable exception. Much of that fact can be attributed to a slogan on the book's cover: "A provocative Christian assessment of culture and ministry for people who know that something is wrong." Even if you do not already know that something is wrong—and regardless whether you have identified precisely what is wrong or how best to fix it—this book could be very helpful for you, as it was for me.

The phrase "resident aliens" has nothing to do with outer space, science fiction, or immigration policy, but rather builds upon the apostle Paul's notion (Philippians 3:20) that as baptized Christians our citizenship and true home are ultimately in another realm from which we are currently separated. We Christians properly belong to a different world and are subject to governing principles and expectations for life that are different from those that seem to dominate the place in which we now find ourselves, and so we are residing in alien territory where things do not go quite as they should for us. Using language and perspective from across the New Testament (perhaps especially from the Gospel of John and the First Epistle of John), resident aliens are Christians who are obviously *in* the present world but ought not be *of* this world—belonging to it, adhering to its false rules, and conforming to its deadly priorities and practices. Thus all Christians should consider themselves resident aliens who as such should be uncomfortable with how things often go here on earth, rather than being (as many of us are) all too ready and willing to conform to life in this strange world. Hauerwas and Willimon are not asking us here to hate the world entirely (see pages 6-7 and 174-180), much less to separate ourselves from it altogether; but they do indeed want us to engage the world more thoughtfully through a critical lens by which we can better discern this world's weaknesses and limitations and even its defiant resistance to the Lord's vision for his created order. Yet part of the problem these authors identify is precisely that the church is unwittingly worldly and that it has succumbed to being political in the worst ways rather than in faithful ways that offer an uncompromising witness to Jesus Christ. Their unconventional solution to this problem is that the church actually needs to become more engaged with the rest of the world—accordingly *more* political, not less—but in a manner that cannot be construed as conservative or liberal, Democrat or Republican. So they write: "we want to argue that Christianity is mostly a matter of politics—*politics as defined by the gospel* [my emphasis]. The call to be part of the gospel is a joyful call to be adopted by an alien people, to join a countercultural phenomenon, a new *polis* called church. [...] The challenge of Jesus is the political dilemma of how to be faithful to a strange community, which is shaped by a story of how God is with us" (page 30). Then Hauerwas and Willimon sketch a view of Christian commitment in the world in ways driven by the Gospel, holding the nature of the church and its faith about Jesus tightly together and challenging everyone's political assumptions.

After co-writing this book and its successor-companion (*Where Resident Aliens Live: Exercises for Christian Practice* [Abingdon Press, 1996]), which is in part a careful reply to some critics of their original volume (especially critics who accuse Hauerwas and Willimon of advocating a sectarian withdrawal from our fallen world) and in part illustrations of the robust Christian life lived by those who have adapted themselves successfully to being resident aliens in a world that is increasingly hostile to them, the authors have only extended and enhanced their reputations. Hauerwas continued to teach theological ethics at Duke Divinity School and to write prolifically; in 2001 *Time* magazine named him "America's Best Theologian," he has appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," and he even became an Episcopalian after marrying one. *Resident Aliens* is undoubtedly one of Hauerwas's most accessible books and perhaps his very best book for application in everyday life. A pastoral theologian, Willimon taught liturgy and worship at Duke Divinity School for twenty years, later served as the bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church for eight years, then returned to teach at Duke. A Baylor University survey in 1996 named Willimon one of the twelve best preachers in English. In addition, Hauerwas and Willimon have jointly authored at least three other books (on topics ranging from the Holy Spirit to the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments) that could benefit us here at Aquia, just as *Resident Aliens* could. In 2014 Willimon co-directed a seminar on preaching and pastoral ministry where I had the privilege of working directly with him; there I had the opportunity to thank him personally for the difference this book made in my life. Your reading of *Resident Aliens* might make change your perspective and your life as well.